



Washington State Patrol

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Serving Washington Since 1901

*****For Immediate Release*****

Captain Deion Glover
Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

Date: September 8, 2025

Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Courtney Chambers

Phone: (360) 596-3904

Email: fpbpio@wsp.wa.gov

Youth Fire Safety

Olympia – As the new school year starts, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) urges educators and parents to teach children about fire safety and their responsibilities during a fire. It is vital for kids to recognize the hazards of fire and know how to react in an emergency. Last year in Washington State, nearly 6% of fire-related deaths involved children under age 10.

The SFMO suggests teaching children the following fire safety tips:

- Teach children not to play with fire hazards such as matches, lighters, candles, or cooking equipment.
- Establish a three-foot kid-free zone in areas with fire or safety risks, such as the kitchen, near fireplaces, and around space heaters.
- Let children hear a smoke alarm and explain that they must leave the building quickly and safely when it goes off.
- Discuss when to call 911 and what information to provide in an emergency.
- Practice a fire escape plan twice a year, including at least two exit pathways.
- Teach children to go outside to the designated family meeting spot and remain there during a fire.
- Explain that hiding during a fire is not safe.
- Teach children to get low and crawl to the nearest exit if there is smoke.
- Teach children to remember the phrase "Get Out and Stay Out."
- Review what to do during a school fire drill and emphasize the importance of following their teachers' instructions.

For more information, please contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3904.

###

The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and the training and certification of firefighters.

www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/